GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:953
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
DECLINE IN CULTIVABLE LAND
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the cultivable land due to cultivation of cash crops and excessive use of fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose; and

(d) if so, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b) According to the latest available data, the cultivable area, consisting of net sown area, fallow lands, culturable waste land and land under miscellaneous tree crops, has shown a deecline during the three years from 1994-95 to 1996-97 as seen from the Table below:

(Area in '000 ha.)

Year Area	Net sown land	Other cultivable (2)+(3)	Cultivable land
1994-95	142960	374811	80441
1995-96	142197	37945	180142
1996-97	142819	37159	179978

Area under cash crops forms a part of net sown area and hence a part of cultivable land. While there is no declining trend in the Net Sown Area, the major decline in the cultivable land is due to decline in 'Other cultivable land' consisting of Fallow Land, Culturable Waste Land and Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

(c)&(d) The Ministry of Agriculture have been impressing upon all the States and Union Territories to protect agricultural land being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. A National Land Use Policy Outline which, inter alia, envisages restructuring of urban policy to ensure that high productive land is not taken away for non-agricultural uses, has been formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and recommended to the States for adoption.